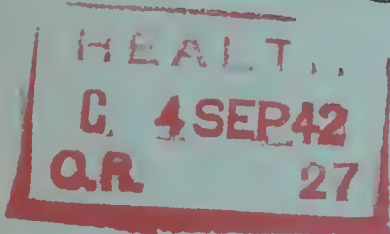


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Borough of Godmanchester.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

UPON THE

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT

DURING THE YEAR 1941.

HUNTINGDON :

FRIEND & FLINT, PRINTERS, GRAMMAR SCHOOL WALK.

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TO THE
GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1941, and in response to a request from the Minister of Health the Report takes the form of an interim report only. This is desirable for several reasons, the chief of which are:— the increased pressure of work on Public Health Departments of Local Authorities, and the paramount need for economy in the use of paper.

Furthermore, certain information which in the normal course of events would have been published in the Annual Report has been deliberately omitted on account of national security.

In contrast to previous reports wherein both the Crude Death Rate and the Corrected Death Rate appeared, in this issue only the Crude Death Rate is given. This alteration is the outcome of the continuous movements of local population and the uneven incidence of civilian war deaths which make the preparation of the Areal Comparability Factor impossible.

Staff.

Medical Officer of Health:

D. S. BUCHANAN, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:

F. J. EAST, M.I.S.E., A.R.San.I.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births

Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated
resident population ... 14.9

Still Births

Still Birth rate per 1000 total (live
and still) births ... 25.6

Death Rates

Death rate per 1000 of the estimated
resident population ... 11.8

Death Rate from Puerperal causes ... Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births ... 75.0

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 81.08

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live
births ... Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (All ages) ... 6

Deaths from Measles (All ages) ... 0

Deaths from Whooping Cough (All ages) ... 0

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... 0

Rates.

		Per 1,000 Population.			Per 1,000 Live Births
		Live Births.	Still Births.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality.
Godmanchester	...	14.9	0.38	11.8	75
England and Wales	...	14.2	0.51	12.9	59

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The provision of health services within the area generally remains unaltered.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

No undertakings of any importance have been carried out during the past twelve months and generally the circumstances are unaltered.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

The routine visits of inspection in connection with this work have been carried out as in past years.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ended 31st December, 1941.

Regular inspections of dwelling houses, cowsheds, dairies, factories and bakehouses have been carried out during the year, but this work has been somewhat curtailed through pressure of work in other directions.

All complaints received have been investigated and there has been no serious deterioration in the sanitary condition of the Borough, although this remains far from satisfactory.

Samples of water have been sent regularly to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. There has been some increase in the number of consumers from the public mains, but a large number of shallow wells are still in use.

(Informal 4. Statutory 14).

Complaints received	Total No. of	...	...	9
Premises, Houses, &c.	No. inspected	...	...	48
	Nuisances abated...	...	...	10

Pool, ditch, gutter. water-course	...	...	No. inspected	...	...	—
			Nuisances abated...	...	...	—
Animals improperly kept	...	...	No. inspected	...	...	—
			Nuisances abated...	...	...	—
Offensive accumulations	...	...	No. inspected	...	...	—
			Nuisances abated...	...	...	—
Infectious Disease	...	...	Houses affected with	...	18	
			Houses inspected...	...	18	
			Number of inspections	...	18	
			Houses disinfected	...	15	
			Schools	...	...	—
			Disinfectant used	Formalin		
			Lots of clothing disinfected...	...	—	
Pail or earth closets	...	...	No. converted to W.C.'s	...	—	
Water supply	...	...	Samples taken for analysis...	10		
			„ condemned	...	6	
			Public supply substituted for			
			well or pond	...	4	
Housing, etc. Act, 1936	...	...	No. demolition orders	...	—	
			No. made habitable	...	9	
Total Legal Proceedings, i.e.,			Summonses, etc.	...	—	
			Convictions	...	—	

F. J. EAST, A R.San.I., M.I.S.E.,
Sanitary Inspector.

Prevalence of and Control Over Infectious and Other Diseases.

Infectious Diseases.

The incidence of notifiable diseases throughout the area remained fairly low, Measles being the most prevalent. The general public largely continue to regard Measles and Whooping with indifference and fail to realise the seriousness of these illnesses with the result that there are cases in which the parents fail to seek medical assistance and consequently cases remain unnotified. To overcome this, further legislation should be passed requiring people suffering from or having the care of persons suffering from Infectious Diseases to seek the assistance of a medical man.

The following tables gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in the area during 1941.

Disease.	Total.	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and upwards	Cases adm to Hosp.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	14	...	...	3	...	2	4	3	1	1	...	...	...	14	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Pneumonia	5	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Measles	137	3	7	14	27	19	53	8	1	5	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	39	1	3	6	14	5	7	2	...	1	...	...	...	3	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	84	1	7	6	13	10	31	13	2	1	...	...	...	...	...

Diphtheria Immunisation.

In connection with the prophylactic treatment of Diphtheria, endeavours have been maintained to keep the public aware of the beneficial result in the form of immunity from infection by Diphtheria bacillus, which their children enjoy subsequent to this treatment.

This form of true preventive medicine was commenced in the district two years ago and has been pursued with continued energy during the past twelve months.

From the returns it is evident that most parents realise the importance of their children having the complete course of treatment and that only on such conditions can they expect the children to acquire an immunity. Although this can be stated to be generally true, there is still a small minority who allow their children to commence the treatment and subsequently fail to complete it, and in these cases no such immunity can be expected, but unfortunately this very type of individual fail to realise this and later if their children develop Diphtheria they are prone to speak in a derogatory manner of the immunising schemes.

The following table summarises the number of children treated during the year 1941: —

	Completed	1st Injection only
Over 5 years ...	145	6
Under 5 years	84	3

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1 ...				1				
5 ...				3				
15 ...		1						
25 ...								
35 ...								
45 ...	1				1			
55 ...								
65 and upwards								
Total	1	1	...	4	1	...	...	...

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. S. BUCHANAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

